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Taxis

*1353 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of big and small taxis running in the City at present;

(*b*) the number of licences granted for running the taxis during the year 1960–61;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take any action to increase the strength of taxis in the City; and

(*d*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: (*a*) to (*d*): A statement * is placed on the table of the House.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: May I know whether there is any proposal to ply special taxis for the benefit of foreigners?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: There are already special taxis for foreign tourists.

SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER: Recently when there was a strike of the taxis, the Government took very important and useful steps in running buses specially from Egmore and Central stations. Is there any proposal to continue this system or to continue the system of running Government taxis along with or instead of taxis now running?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Recently, there was taxi strike and that has been settled. During the course of the strike many suggestions have come forward to get a better service of taxis and also to some extent to supplement the taxis as far as Madras City is concerned. All these things are under the consideration of the Government.

SRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: சென்னை நகரிலே ஓடுகிற டாக்சிகளைப் பொறுத்த வரையில், சில புதிய விதிமுறைகளைச் சேர்ப்பதாக இருந்தால் மக்களிடத்தில் அதிருப்தி ஏற்படாதபடியும் புகார்கள் வராமலும், டிரைவர்களுக்கும் முதலாளிகளுக்கும் இடையே தகராறு வராமலும் தவிர்க்க முடியும். இந்த மாதிரி மாறுதல்களைச் செய்வதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா? டாக்சி ஓட்டுகிறவர்கள் அந்த வண்டிகளின் சொந்தக்காரர்களாய் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்ற அடிப்படையில் லைசென்சுகள் வழங்கப்படுமா?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: என்னென்ன புது விதிமுறைகளைச் சேர்க்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் அவைகளை அரசாங்கம் பரிசீலனைக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்ளும்.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Sir, may I know whether there is any proposal to increase the taxi fare in the City?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: There is constant demand from the taxi owners for increasing the fare. The matter is under consideration.

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* Printed as Appendix IV on page 754 infra.

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM: In the event of taxi drivers going on strike, why should not the Government compel the taxi owners to run these taxis themselves because a condition is stipulated in the licence itself that they should know driving? Why was not this condition enforced in the recent strike?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: I can force the owners of taxis to run the taxis. But no passenger will get into the taxi that is driven by the owners, who do not know driving.

Neyveli Lignite Project (sharing of profit)

*1354 Q.—**SRI A. A. RASHEED**: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any agreement has been reached with the Union Government regarding the sharing of profit from the Neyveli Project; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government of India have made themselves wholly responsible for financing the project with effect from 1st January 1955. The expenditure incurred by the Government of Madras on this Project prior to its being taken over by the Government of India is being treated as a loan to the Project which bears interest at the rate of 4½ per cent per annum with effect from 1st January 1955. The net profit of the Project is to be divided between the Central Government and the Government of Madras in the proportion 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively after providing for depreciation, amortisation and interest on capital invested at 4½ per cent. The profit allowed to the Government of Madras is in lieu of the royalty on lignite and all other payments due to this Government for the lignite.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Sir, may I know whether the Government asked for a share in the profit on the basis of 50 : 50 and if so, why it was accepted as 25 per cent?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I have no answer for it.

SRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI: இந்த ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டங்களிலே பொதுவாக தென்னாடு புறக்கணிக்கப்படுகிறது என்று பேசப்படுகிற காரணத்தினால் இந்த நெய்வேலித் திட்டத்தை மாநில சர்க்காரே சொந்தம் ஆக்கிக் கொள்ளக்கூடிய அளவுக்கு இந்த அரசாங்கம் வற்புறுத்துமா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: இப்பொழுது மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தார் 100 கோடி ரூபாய் செலவழிக்கிறார்கள். அந்தப் பணத்தை நாமே செலவழிக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுவது நமது ராஜ்ஜியத்திற்கு நல்ல யோசனைதானா என்பதைப் பற்றி சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும்.